

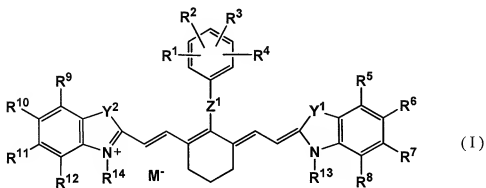
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

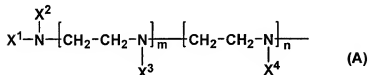
1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (I):

{Formula 1}



{wherein R¹ and R² independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a group represented by the following formula (A):

{Formula 2}



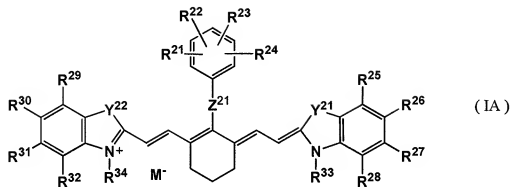
{wherein X¹, X², X³, and X⁴ independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for amino group, and m and n

independently represent 0 or 1}, provided that R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; R^3 and R^4 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} , and R^{12} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{13} and R^{14} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^1 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{15})-$ (wherein R^{15} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); Y^1 and Y^2 independently represent $-C(=O)-$, $-C(=S)-$, or $-C(R^{16})(R^{17})-$ (wherein R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); and M^+ represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge}.

2. (Currently Amended) A fluorescent probe containing the compound represented by the general formula (I) according to claim 1 (except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^1 , X^2 , X^3 , and X^4 represent a protective group for an amino group).

3. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IA):

[Formula 3]



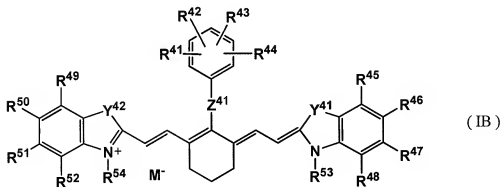
{wherein R^{21} and R^{22} represent amino groups substituting at adjacent positions on the benzene ring, and one of the amino groups may have one alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{23} and R^{24} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{25} , R^{26} , R^{27} , R^{28} , R^{29} , R^{30} , R^{31} , and R^{32} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{33} and R^{34} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^{21} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{35})-$ (wherein R^{35} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); Y^{21} and Y^{22} independently represent $-C(=O)-$, $-C(=S)-$, or $-C(R^{36})(R^{37})-$ (wherein R^{36} and R^{37} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); and M^+ represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge}.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R²³, R²⁴, R²⁵, R²⁶, R²⁷, R²⁸, R²⁹, R³⁰, R³¹, and R³² are hydrogen atoms, R³³ and R³⁴ are C₁₋₆ alkyl groups substituted with a sulfo group, Z²¹ is an oxygen atom, and Y²¹ and Y²² are -C(CH₃)₂-.

5. (Currently Amended) A reagent for ~~measurement of~~measuring nitrogen monoxide, which contains the compound represented by the general formula (IA) according to claim 3.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IB):

[Formula 4]

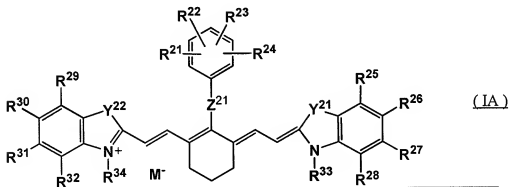


{wherein R⁴¹ and R⁴² combine together to represent a group represented by -N=N-NR⁵⁸- which forms a ring at the adjacent positions on the benzene ring (wherein R⁵⁸ represents a hydrogen atom, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent), or R⁴¹ and R⁴² represent a combination of an amino group (which may have a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for an amino group) and a nitro group substituting at adjacent positions on the benzene ring; R⁴³ and R⁴⁴ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R⁴⁵, R⁴⁶, R⁴⁷, R⁴⁸, R⁴⁹, R⁵⁰, R⁵¹, and R⁵² independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen

atom, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent; R⁵³ and R⁵⁴ independently represent a C₁₋₁₈ alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z⁴¹ represents a oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or -N(R⁵⁵)- (wherein R⁵⁵ represents a hydrogen atom, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent); Y⁴¹ and Y⁴² independently represent -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, or -C(R⁵⁶)(R⁵⁷)- (wherein R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent); and M⁺ represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge].

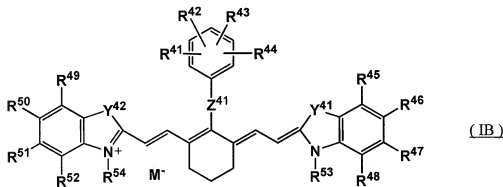
7. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 6, wherein R⁴³, R⁴⁴, R⁴⁵, R⁴⁶, R⁴⁷, R⁴⁸, R⁴⁹, R⁵⁰, R⁵¹, and R⁵² are hydrogen atoms, R⁵³ and R⁵⁴ are C₁₋₆ alkyl groups substituted with a sulfo group, Z⁴¹ is a oxygen atom, and Y⁴¹ and Y⁴² are -C(CH₃)₂-.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring nitrogen monoxide, which comprises (a) ~~the step of~~ reacting the compound represented by the general formula (IA) ~~according to claim 3~~ with nitrogen monoxide;



wherein R²¹ and R²² represent amino groups substituting at adjacent positions on the

benzene ring, and one of the amino groups may have one alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{23} and R^{24} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{25} , R^{26} , R^{27} , R^{28} , R^{29} , R^{30} , R^{31} , and R^{32} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{33} and R^{34} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^{21} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{35})-$, wherein R^{35} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Y^{21} and Y^{22} independently represent $-C(=O)-$, $-C(=S)-$, or $-C(R^{36})(R^{37})-$, wherein R^{36} and R^{37} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; and M^+ represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge; and (b) the step of detecting the compound of the general formula (IB)



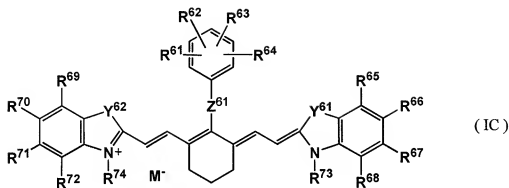
wherein R^{41} and R^{42} combine together to represent a group represented by $-N=N-R^{58}-$ which forms a ring at the adjacent positions on the benzene ring, wherein R^{58} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or R^{41} and R^{42} represent a combination of an amino group which may have a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for an amino group; and a nitro group

substituting at adjacent positions on the benzene ring; R⁴³ and R⁴⁴ independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C₁₋₆ alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R⁴⁵, R⁴⁶, R⁴⁷, R⁴⁸, R⁴⁹, R⁵⁰, R⁵¹, and R⁵² independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent; R⁵³ and R⁵⁴ independently represent a C₁₋₁₈ alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z⁴¹ represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or -N(R⁵⁵)-, wherein R⁵⁵ represents a hydrogen atom, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent; Y⁴¹ and Y⁴² independently represent -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, or -C(R⁵⁶)(R⁵⁷)-, wherein R⁵⁶ and R⁵⁷ independently represent a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent; and M' represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge;

according to claim 6 {wherein R⁴¹ and R⁴² combine together to represent a group represented by -N=N-NR⁵⁸- which forms a ring at the adjacent positions on the benzene ring (wherein R⁵⁸ represents a hydrogen atom, or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group which may have a substituent)} produced in the step (a).

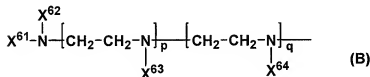
9. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IC):

[Formula 5]



{wherein R^{61} and R^{62} independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a group represented by the following formula (B):

{Formula-6}



(wherein X^{61} , X^{62} , X^{63} , and X^{64} independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for amino group, and p and q independently represent 0 or 1), provided that R^{61} and R^{62} do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom, and when R^{61} and R^{62} simultaneously represent a group represented by the formula (B), in at least one of the groups represented by the formula (B), either p or q, or both represent 1; R^{63} and R^{64} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{65} , R^{66} , R^{67} , R^{68} , R^{69} , R^{70} , R^{71} , and R^{72} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{73} and R^{74} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group

which may have a substituent; Z^{61} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{75})-$ (wherein R^{75} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); Y^{61} and Y^{62} independently represent $-C(=O)-$, $-C(=S)-$, or $-C(R^{76})(R^{77})-$ (wherein R^{76} and R^{77} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); and M' represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge}.

10. (Currently Amended) A fluorescent probe for zinc containing the compound represented by the general formula (IC) according to claim 9 (except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^{61} , X^{62} , X^{63} , and X^{64} are protective group for amino group).

11. (Currently Amended) A zinc complex formed from the compound represented by the general formula (IC) according to claim 9 (except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^{61} , X^{62} , X^{63} , and X^{64} are protective group for amino group), and a zinc ion.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring zinc ions, which comprises (a) ~~the step of~~ reacting the compound represented by the ~~aforementioned~~ general formula (IC) according to claim 9 (except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^{61} , X^{62} , X^{63} , and X^{64} are protective group for amino group) with a zinc ion, and (b) ~~the step of~~ measuring fluorescence intensity of a zinc complex produced in ~~the step~~ (a).